

TOMMY'S SALVOES SINK THE SAINTS

Action Galore In The Sunshine

TWO scorching goals by Wycombe Wanderers inside-left Tommy Holmes, both the results of cannonball shots hit with the maximum power and accuracy, took the steam out of the St. Albans juggernauts at Loakes Park on Wednesday evening.

Although the Saints scrambled a reply, when wing-half Tony King's free kick hit a wall of home defenders and squeezed past goalkeeper Ken Brown, Wycombe deserved their 2-1 victory.

This was a strangely exciting game, full of enthusiasm and fire; good, sharply defined movements by both attacks and rank bad, slovenly ones. The shooting of both teams—Holmes apart — was shocking.

But none of the Wycombe supporters basking in the sunshine could complain of lack of action. The game was played at breathtaking speed with the Saints setting the first-half pace with sharp bursts on both flanks and through the middle, where big Brian Nesbit had a mighty duel with John Fisher.

Decidedly fortunate to be a goal up at the interval—Saints had much more of the attacking play — Wanderers were clearly on top in the second half.

The first 45 minutes proved harassing for Ken Brown, who looked far from happy against the bustling Saints' forwards. Nesbit beat him with two headers, one of which hit the crossbar, and Jim Chappell, the former Kingstonian inside-forward, bundled the ball into the net and handled in the process.

It was just as well for Wycombe that their wing-halves David Thomas and Charles Gale and right-back John Beck were tackling with inspired zeal.

Little was seen of the Wycombe forwards during this period. It came almost as a shock when 2 minutes before the interval Michael Rockell playing centre - forward and Alan Murphy, schemed a beautiful left-wing move which ended in Holmes driving the ball into the top corner of the St. Albans goal.

Inspiration of almost all Wycombe's many second half attacks was Len Worley who flogged himself and his team unmercifully. He tantalised and tormented the St. Albans defenders bobbed up all over the forward line and sent centre after centre pumping into the visitors' penalty area.

The unlucky Rockell might well have scored on two occasions but Ashby was well off target with his shooting. Then Holmes showed exemplary marksmanship with a 57th minute goal from Murphy's corner — hitting a rebound into the net with great speed—and Saints looked a beaten side.

Although King's 75th minute goal put them back in the game, Saints clearly felt the effects of their first-half pace and faded badly in the closing stages.